

Claims

1. A device for attachment to a host for serial data communication comprising:

means for transferring to the host a predetermined data structure indicating whether or not the device supports direct memory access.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for transferring is responsive to a request from the host.

3. A device as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the predetermined data structure is one of a plurality of data structures transferred at one time to the host.

4. A device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the device is a USB device and the predetermined data structure is a descriptor.

5. A device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the descriptor is a non-standard descriptor.

6. A device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the predetermined data structure extends a preceding descriptor.

7. A device as claimed in claims 4, 5 or 6 wherein the predetermined data structure is transferred during the device enumeration.

8. A host for attachment to a device for serial data communication comprising:

transfer means for transferring a predetermined data structure identifying whether or not the device supports direct memory access, from the device to the host.

9. A host as claimed in claim 8 wherein the transfer means is arranged to request the device to send at least the predetermined data structure.

10. A host as claimed in claim 8 or 9 wherein the predetermined data structure is one of a plurality of data structures transferred at one time to the host.
11. A host as claimed in claim 8, 9 or 10 wherein the host is a USB host and the predetermined data structure is a descriptor.
12. A host as claimed in claim 11, wherein the descriptor is a non-standard descriptor.
13. A host as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein the predetermined data structure extends a previously transferred descriptor.
14. A host as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 13, further comprising allocation means for allocating tasks relating to data transfer from/to the device in dependence upon the content of the predetermined data structure.
15. A device as claimed in claims 11, 12 or 13 wherein the predetermined data structure is transferred during the enumeration of the device by the host.
16. A system comprising a host, a device and a serial data interconnect between the host and device, comprising:
 - means for transferring, from the device to the host via the serial data interconnect, a predetermined data structure indicating whether or not the device supports direct memory access.
17. A system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and/or as shown in the accompanying drawing.
18. Any novel subject matter or combination including novel subject matter disclosed, whether or not within the scope of or relating to the same invention as the preceding claim.